REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 to 17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,363,348 to Besling et al. ("Besling"). Claims 5, 6, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Besling and U.S. Patent No. 6,049,594 to Furman et al. ("Furman"). Claims 7 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Besling and U.S. Patent No. 6,801,893 to Backfried et al. ("Backfried").

In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Besling. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Besling describes a method for recognizing an input speech pattern stored in a user station using a recognition unit of a server station. *See* column 1, lines 8 to 10 and 51. A vocabulary adaptation profile may include a list of additional words which are added to a basic vocabulary. *See* column 10, lines 54 to 58. Besling notes that for many languages "a reasonably accurate transcription can be achieved automatically for most words." *See* column 10, lines 58 to 63.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites "speaking the vocabulary data to the voice recognition system in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database." Independent claim 16 recites that "speech data is spoken into the vocabulary database in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database." It is respectfully submitted that Besling does not teach or suggest speaking vocabulary/speech data into a vocabulary database in an automated manner using an audio module, as recited in claims 1 and 16.

In contrast, Besling merely describes automatic transcription of a word into an acoustic representation when adding the word to a vocabulary. *See* column 10, line 58, to column 11, line 9. Besling uses a phonetic dictionary to generate the acoustic representation. *See* column 11, lines 17 to 20. That is, in Besling the acoustic representation added to the vocabulary is computer-generated

and electronic, not spoken, and it is not added to the vocabulary using an audio module, as recited in claims 1 and 16. The microphone 356 of Besling is used merely for the enrollment phase of operation, and not for expanding a vocabulary database, as recited in the claims. *See* column 6, lines 20 to 32. Besling describes the storage of acoustic references in a storage means 314, but does not disclose the speaking of those acoustic references using an audio module, as recited in the claims. *See* column 6, lines 40 to 42. Besling uses words spoken by a user merely to generate model training data, not to expand the vocabulary database, as recited in the claims. *See* column 8, lines 10 to 30. Merely adapting a transcription to better match the actual utterance for which the word is recognized, as described in Besling, is not the same as speaking vocabulary data in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database, as recited in the claims. *See* column 11, lines 7 to 9. It is respectfully submitted that Besling does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in independent claims 1 and 16. Therefore, Besling cannot anticipate claim 1 or its dependent claims 3 and 4.

Furman describes a speech training processor 95, which generates a phonetic transcription of spoken words and passes the phonetic transcription to a database processor 110 for association of the spoken words with a telephone number. *See* column 9, lines 34 to 44. Furman does not disclose, and the Office Action does not rely upon it as disclosing, speaking the vocabulary data to the voice recognition system in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database, as recited in independent claims 1 and 16. Nor does Furman suggest these features.

Backfried describes a text-to-speech system which maps letters to sounds and which is used to generate the pronunciation of a new word. *See* column 10, lines 60 to 63 and column 12, lines 53 to 56 (claim 5). New words are added to the vocabulary of a speech system only after prompting a user for additional information regarding the new word. *See* column 3, lines 28 to 32 and column 4, lines 19 to 38. Backfried does not disclose, and the Office Action does not rely upon it as disclosing, speaking the vocabulary data to the voice recognition system in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database, as recited in independent claims 1 and 16. Nor does Backfried suggest these features.

Because each of Besling, Backfried and Furman fail to teach or suggest at least the above recited features of independent claims 1 and 16, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Besling, Backfried, and Furman, to the extent proper, could not render claims 1 and 16, or their respective dependent claims, unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the respective rejections of claims 1 and 3 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 is respectfully requested.

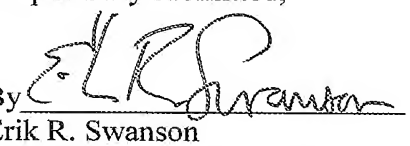
CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Final Office Action mailed April 24, 2008 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1 and 3 to 17 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: June 23, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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